

Star Anchor & Fasteners Incorporated

EPA ID Number: NYD001223338

Former Names of Site

Star Mountainville, Star Industries, Star Expansion Company, Mountainville Properties, Star Newco

Site Description

Star Anchor & Fasteners, Inc. is located at 20 Industry Drive in Mountainville, New York. The site consists of two main buildings and adjacent parking lots on approximately 37 acres of land in Orange County, located between the New York State Thruway and Woodbury Creek. The former owner operated the facility for over 40 years for manufacture of specialty metal and plastic screws and fasteners for the construction industry. The site was sold in 1996, without full disclosure about contamination, to the current owner, who now operates the plant on a very limited basis and has filed for bankruptcy protection under Chapter 11. A portion of the building is currently being leased as office space and the owner is attempting to legally abandon the site or find a buyer.

The Site was the subject of numerous environmental investigations and remedial activities, between 1985 and 1997. The most recent activity (1997) comprised significant soil removal activities under a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Consent Order. Releases of hazardous wastes or hazardous constituents have occurred from some or all of the following units: Former Landfill, Waste Water Treatment Area, Waste Water Treatment Area - East, Scrap Metal Area, Waste Pile / Contaminated Fill Area, Waste Water Treatment Lagoons, Former Above Ground Storage Tanks, Solvent Release to Storm Sewers, and the Current Oil - Water Separator Area.

Contaminants released at the Site include volatile organic solvents (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), petroleum hydrocarbons and heavy metals. Substantial environmental cleanup has been completed, however some source areas remain at the site and the groundwater has been impacted in both the overburden and bedrock aquifers. Groundwater in the overburden aquifer was being controlled via two groundwater pump and treat systems for several years (these are no longer operational), however the contamination of the bedrock aquifer has not been characterized, and is not controlled. The bedrock aquifer is used as a water source by some surrounding homes that are not served by public water systems.

Site Responsibility and Legal Instrument

NYCRR Part 373 Post-Closure Permit dated August 18, 1994. The Post-Closure Permit regulates post-closure care of the hazardous waste management unit at the facility (a closed Waste Pile) and requires the Permittee to carry out a Corrective Action program to evaluate and remediate releases from all former waste management units at the Site. The Permit is subject to renewal on a five year basis.

Permit Status

Post-Closure Permit for post-closure care and Corrective Action for past releases of hazardous constituents from the site.

Potential Threats and Contaminants

Contaminants and Sources

Groundwater sampling data indicates levels of several volatile organic solvents (VOCs) in excess of New York State groundwater/drinking water standards in both the overburden aquifer and underlying bedrock aquifer, and these have been shown to have migrated offsite within both aquifers.

The extent of the overburden contamination has been fairly well established and characterized. Most of the sources have been remediated and small pump and treat systems were installed near two former sources to mitigate further off-site groundwater migration. However, NYSDEC learned in 2001 that these systems have deteriorated and are no longer in operation. The most significant concerns at the present time are the few remaining areas of soil contamination, the absence of pump and treat systems, the lack of any recent monitoring data, and the question of the extent of impact to the bedrock aquifer. Only relatively low levels of contaminants have been detected in the bedrock, however characterization is incomplete.

Potential Threats From Contaminated Groundwater

The shallow overburden groundwater has been impacted by releases from the site, however data (from 1997) indicated that the plume has not migrated far from the site. In the southern portion of the site, the Woodbury Creek may be receiving contaminated groundwater discharge, however no measurable impact to the stream water quality has been observed in samples. At the northern end of the property near the old landfill, a deeper overburden groundwater zone has been impacted. This zone is not known to discharge to the creek, and downgradient monitoring wells that have been installed beyond the property have not shown any contamination.

The underlying bedrock aquifer has been impacted by volatile organic contaminants at levels exceeding New York State groundwater/drinking water standards. The detected concentrations are relatively low, however preliminary data indicates that

contamination has migrated off-site. The direction and extent are not known. The bedrock aquifer is a source of drinking water to local residences and recreational facilities. While there is some risk to surrounding wells, there are few wells in the immediate vicinity of the site and those that have been tested have not shown any impact.

Potential Threats From Contaminated Soil

Most of the known contaminated soil has been removed from the site. However, during and subsequent to the site remediation work performed in 1997, two new areas of contaminated soils were discovered. The new areas comprise an additional historical spill or disposal area within the Waste Water Treatment Area and an associated source area beneath a scrap metal storage area. These two areas are covered with clean soils or pavement, such that human exposure is not likely.

The latter area represents a potential source of the observed groundwater contamination in the underlying bedrock aquifer. The bedrock is known to be at or very near the surface beneath this area. Additional investigation and source removal are needed in both new areas.

A third area of remaining soil contamination remains at depth in the Waste Water Treatment Area, since soils in this area were only removed down to a few feet below the groundwater table. Deeper contaminated soils remain that may be a continuing source into the overburden and bedrock aquifers. These soils do not represent significant potential for direct human exposure.

Any construction to be performed at the site will require the implementation of an appropriate health and safety plan to protect construction personnel and facility workers.

Potential Threats From Air Contamination

Workers in the buildings at Star Anchors & Fasteners are not likely to be exposed to volatile organic contaminants in indoor air. The known plume (overburden) of contamination and significant remaining sources are east of the building and groundwater (overburden) moves in an easterly direction, thus carrying the plumes away from the building

Cleanup Approach and Progress

Star Anchors & Fasteners has previously removed and remediated several sources from the site including a Landfill (removed), a waste pile (closed in place), the former Waste Water Treatment Area (several areas of contaminated soil removed). All excavated soils were disposed of off-site. Some remaining source areas at the site require additional investigation and remediation. In 1997, the former owner located, investigated, and removed for off-site disposal a sludge disposal area that had received contaminated soils from closure of two surface impoundments at the site in the early 1970s. This area was on former company owned property west of

the New York State Thruway.

The overburden aquifer was being controlled via two groundwater pump and treat systems, however in 2001 NYSDEC learned that these are no longer operational. The bedrock aquifer has not been characterized or controlled.

The current owner does not have the financial resources to complete the remaining source characterization and remediation. Therefore, NYSDEC has recently relisted the site on the New York State Inactive Hazardous Waste Site Registry. This will make Superfund funds available to complete the work at the site.

Site Repository

NYSDEC
Division of Solid and Hazardous Materials
Bureau of Radiation and Hazardous Site Management
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Albany, NY 12233-7252